



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Robert T. Matsui
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MATSUI: H.R. 4070 PROTECTS VULNERABLE BENEFICIARIES AND PREVENTS FRAUD

WASHINGTON, DC—Today the House is expected to pass H.R. 4070, the Social Security Program Protection Act. Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) co-sponsored the bill, which strengthens protections for vulnerable beneficiaries and prevents fraud and abuse.

The legislation improves the "representative payee" system, to better protect beneficiaries whose impairments or youth prevent them from handling their own funds. The bill also strengthens protections against fraud and abuse in the program, and denies Social Security benefits to fugitive felons.

"This is a good bill, and I look forward to it passing the House," said Matsui. "This legislation underscores the fact that Social Security is a lifeline for millions of seniors, children, and disabled workers. We must constantly evaluate the program to ensure that those who rely on it most are receiving the benefits they deserve."

The bill also includes critical provisions from his legislation, H.R. 3332, which would expand access to legal representation for disabled Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claimants by allowing the Social Security Administration (SSA) to pay attorney fees directly out of past-due SSI benefits. H.R. 4070 also includes a variety of other minor, non-controversial technical changes to the program.

"SSI beneficiaries are some of the most vulnerable in our society. They live with both poverty and disability, and many of them are children," said Matsui. "It is imperative that we encourage attorneys to take on these cases so that these individuals receive the help they need."

The CBO estimates a 10-year cost savings of \$534 million, with \$297 million accruing to Social Security, the rest in Medicare.

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